

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 22, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 173

Introduced by Assembly Member Evans

June 3, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 173—Relative to Native Plant Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 173, as amended, Evans. Native Plant Week.

This measure would proclaim the 3rd week of April, each year, as California Native Plant Week and would encourage community groups, schools, and citizens to ~~observe the week by undertaking~~ *undertake* appropriate activities to promote the conservation, restoration, and appreciation of California’s native plants.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, California’s native plants provide unparalleled and
2 unique iconic, economic, artistic, historical, and environmental
3 values to the state; and

4 WHEREAS, California’s ~~5,862~~ *over 6,000* native plant species,
5 subspecies, and varieties, of which ~~2,153~~ *over 2,150* exist only in
6 California, make California home to more diverse plant life than
7 all other states combined; and

8 WHEREAS, California’s native plants include some of the
9 oldest, tallest, and most massive living things on Earth; and

10 ~~WHEREAS, Public agencies, academic institutions, and~~
11 ~~nongovernmental scientific organizations consider nearly~~
12 ~~one-quarter of the state’s plant diversity rare or endangered; and~~

1 *WHEREAS, The Department of Fish and Game recognizes nearly*
2 *one-quarter of California's native plants as "special status plants"*
3 *that warrant additional protections; and*

4 *WHEREAS, California currently contends with over 1,000*
5 *nonnative plants, some of which compete with native plant species,*
6 *degrade soil, facilitate erosion and catastrophic wildfire, and alter*
7 *the state's natural landscapes; and*

8 *WHEREAS, Many native California plants have played a vital*
9 *role in the history of our state and our nation, compelling Congress,*
10 *the Legislature, and many communities to protect the beauty,*
11 *power, and grandeur of our wild places; and*

12 *WHEREAS, California's first Indian nations lived and thrived*
13 *by their knowledge of native California plants, which provided*
14 *them with food, clothing, shelter, dyes, tools, medicines, and fuel*
15 *for centuries; and*

16 *WHEREAS, California's citizens have consistently supported*
17 *efforts to protect our wild landscapes, including numerous areas*
18 *within the Coast Redwoods, the Sierra Nevada Mountain range,*
19 *and the Mojave Desert, spurring a conservation and environmental*
20 *awareness that helps define California today; and*

21 *WHEREAS, California's native plants have played a vital role*
22 *in inspiring the creation and management of our National Park*
23 *Service, including President Lincoln's 1864 declaration of a park*
24 *at Yosemite, and the adoption of the Sequoia cone as an official*
25 *insignia of the National Park Service; and Service, including*
26 *President Lincoln's 1864 signing of the Yosemite and Mariposa*
27 *Big Tree Grove Grant to California, designating a park "to be*
28 *held for public use, resort, and recreation ... inalienable for all*
29 *time," and the adoption of the Sequoia cone as an official insignia*
30 *of the National Park Service; and*

31 *WHEREAS, In 1899, 1903, and 1904, members of the 9th*
32 *Cavalry and 24th Infantry Buffalo Soldier regiments were*
33 *dispatched to Sequoia and Yosemite national parks, where they*
34 *protected giant sequoias from illegal logging, built trails and fences*
35 *to enhance visitors' experiences among the giant trees while*
36 *protecting park resources, and developed the first museum in a*
37 *national park, a California native plant arboretum in Yosemite*
38 *Valley; and*

39 *WHEREAS, An interest in protecting California's native plants*
40 *has played a vital role in the creation of many California state and*

1 regional parks, including California's oldest state park, Big Basin,
2 created in 1902 to protect old growth Coast Redwood forests; and

3 WHEREAS, The impact of California's landscape has influenced
4 literary and artistic works, including the works of Mark Twain,
5 John Steinbeck, Ansel Adams, and many other internationally
6 known figures, furthering California's legacy; and

7 WHEREAS, California's native plants have provided and
8 continue to provide foods, medicines, and other products, from
9 the origins of California's strawberry industry to Taxol for cancer
10 treatment; and

11 WHEREAS, California native plant horticulture is a thriving,
12 vital, and growing industry employing thousands of Californians,
13 and the benefits to water conservation and natural area restoration
14 help provide economic stability within the state; and

15 WHEREAS, California's native plants provide essential
16 watershed protections by helping to recharge natural aquifers,
17 filtering water flowing through mountains, hills, and valleys,
18 lessening erosion and flooding, and enabling efforts to beautify
19 and renew our state; and

20 WHEREAS, Gardens and landscapes comprised of California
21 native plants, being perfectly suited to California's climate and
22 soil, require far fewer fertilizers, soil amendments, or pesticides,
23 and use 60 to 90 percent less water than conventional landscapes,
24 exemplified by a City of Santa Monica experiment, in which a
25 native plant garden *using appropriate watering methods* was shown
26 to use nearly 220,000 fewer gallons of water than a similarly sized
27 conventional garden, a 77 percent decrease in water use; and

28 WHEREAS, Restoring California native plants provides natural
29 links to wild land areas, while introducing people to their beauty
30 and instilling a greater understanding and appreciation for
31 California's natural heritage; now, therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
33 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the essential
34 value and importance of California native plants to our history,
35 economy, landscape, and environment; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature encourages community
37 groups, schools, and citizens to undertake appropriate activities to
38 promote native plant conservation and restoration, and to inform
39 their neighbors and communities of the value of native plants in
40 nature and in horticultural settings; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature hereby declares the
- 2 third week of April, each year, as California Native Plant Week;
- 3 and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 5 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.